

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W

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R 231410Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4257

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KE, MZ, SREF

SUBJECT: MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES IN KENYA

REF: (A) STATE 285341, (B) NAIROBI 10672

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL EMBOFF MET WITH UNHCR REGIONAL DIRECTOR KADRY TO CLARIFY FACTS CONCERNING HANDLING OF MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES HERE. IN COURSE LENGTHY CONVERSATION KADRY MADE FOLLOWING POCNTS WHICH REFUTE IMPLICATIONS OF VAN HOOGSTRATEN LETTER TO SENATOR KENNEDY:

A. UNHCR NAIROBI AND GENEVA HAVE REVIEWED INDIVIDUALLY EACH REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION (111) SUBMITTED BY MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES (REF A). IN ALL CASES FOUND MERITORIOKS UNDER UNHCR CRITERIA (NOW 27) UNHCR RECOMMENDED TO GOK THAT IT CONTINUE REFUGEE STATUS FOR INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED AND THEIR FAMILIES. IN EACH SUCH CASE GO AGREED. UNHCR HAS CONCLUDED THAT OTHER MOZAMBICANS ARE NOT BONA FIDE POLITICAL REFUGEES.

B. NO MOZAMBICANS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING FORCIBLY REPATRIATED, ALTHOUGH 7 OF THE 111 WHO ORIGINALLY APPEALED TO UNHCR TO INTERVENE ON THEIR BE-

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HALF HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY REQUESTED UNHCR REPATRIATION ASSISTANCE. NEITHER GOK NOR UNHCR HAS ANY OBJECTION TO RESETTLEMENT OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IN PORTUGAL, MALAWI OR ELSEWHERE. ON THE CONTRARY GOK WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO BE RELIEVED OF THE PROBLEM. APPROXIMATELY 8 OF THE 111 REFERRED TO ABOVE HAVE DEPARTED, OR ARE PREPARING TO DEPART FOR ASSORTED 3RD COUNTRIES.

C. WITH SPECIFIC RESPECT TO CASE OF FRANCISCO MATIAS, HE FILLED OUT A LONGHAND APPLICATION FORM REQUESTING UNHCR ASSISTANCE FOR REPATRIATION TO MOZAMBIQUE "TO JOHN MOTHER AND WORK IN FARMING IN THE COUNTRY." (EMBOFF SAW DOCUMENT.)

2. ABOVE INFORMATION NOTWITHSTANDING, FACT REMAINS THAT MOZAMBICANS, WHO WERE ONCE REFUGEES IN KENYA BUT ARE NOW HERE ILLEGALLY, FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. THEY NO LONGER RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. MOST HAVE BEEN UNABLE, APPARENTLY, TO OBTAIN WORK PERMITS. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT BEST SOLUTION LIES IN EXERTING PRESSURE ON GOK TO KEEP THESE INDIVIDUALS HERE. CASE CANNOT BE MADE THAT GOK HAS DEALT CAPRICIOUSLY WITH SITUATION OR HAS IGNORED ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER CONVENTION ON REFUGEES. THE UGANDAN REFUGEE PROBLEM HERE HAS GROWN AND IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE FOR GOK TO ATTEMPT REDUCE ITS OVERALL BURDEN BY CULLING THOSE OTHERS NO LONGER CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE REFUGEES. A MORE USEFUL APPROACH, WE BELIEVE, WOULD BE FOR INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS TO DIRECT THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD OBTAINING 3RD COUNTRY (PORTUGAL, MALAWI, ETC.) AGREEMENT TO ADMIT THESE MOZAMBICANS, AND TOWARD ARRANGING FINANCING FOR THEM TO GET THERE.

DECON 1-1-78.

MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, REPATRIATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NAIROB13090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760436-0401
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761123/aaaaaswk.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 285341, 76 NAIROBI 10672
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by woolfihd>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES IN KENYA
TAGS: SREF, KE, MZ, (HOOGSTRATEN, JAN VAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006